



Conflict Transformation & Social Justice

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Structure of Lecture

- Overview of the history of the study of conflict
- Theoretical approaches to conflict
- The concept of conflict transformation
- The concept of social justice
- The relationship between conflict transformation & social justice

1914-15 Precursors

- Experience of World Wars
- Class-based struggles
- Industrial Relations
- Nationalism
- Emphasis on non-rational aspects of conflict



1946-69 Early Efforts

- The Cold War, National Liberation Movements, Nuclear Era
- Quantitative Conflict Research
- Functional Integration (see the EU)
- Race & Ethnic Relations (contact theory)
- Nonviolent Action & Peace Research (cultural aspects, socio-econ aspects)

1970-85 Crystallization & Expansion

- Consensus on Core Ideas
 - Conflicts can be reframed as a shared problem
 - Intermediaries can assist with political agreements
 - Negotiators and mediators can have skills training



1970-85 Crystallization & Expansion

Theories & Methods:

- Feminist Theory (non-hierarchical, consensus based)
- Game Theory
- Social-Psychological (small group experimentation)
- Social Movement Theory (resource mobilisation)
- Problem solving workshops
- ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)
- Azar's Protracted Social Conflict (communal context, human needs)

1986-Present: Extension

- Phases of Conflict (pre-negotiation & post-settlement phases)
- Institutionalisation (in laws; research & teaching settings)
- Context of intra-state conflict (social construction of cultural aspects)
- Emotional aspects (memory, trauma)
- The ethics of interventions

Theories: Conflict Management

- Conflict a consequence of differences in values/ interests
- Arise from institutions, power relationships
- Resolution unrealistic – manage and contain
- Interventions, ‘historic’ compromises
- Institutional design



Theories: Conflict Resolution

- People cannot compromise on fundamental needs
- Transcend conflict by reframing positions and interests
- Intervention by skilled but powerless third parties
- Identify creative solutions, move from zero-sum mentality

Miall: Conflict Transformation

Conflict Transformation as a
'reconceptualization of the field', see p. 4:

Conflict transformation is therefore a process of engaging with and transforming the relationships, interests, discourses, and, if necessary, the very constitution of society that supports the continuation of violent conflict.

Conflict Transformation: Core Concepts

Galtung

- Levels of violence (individual, structural, cultural)
- Conflict can be constructive
- Relationship between local conflicts/conflicts embedded in world society & economy



**“By peace we mean the capacity to transform conflicts with empathy, without violence, and creatively - a never-ending process”
Johan Galtung**

Conflict Transformation: Core Concepts

Vayrynen

- Actor transformations: internal changes in parties, new parties
- Issue transformations: altering the agenda of conflict issues
- Rule transformations: Changes in the norms or rules governing a conflict
- Structural transformations: entire structure of relationships & power distributions

Conflict Transformation: Core Concepts

Lederach

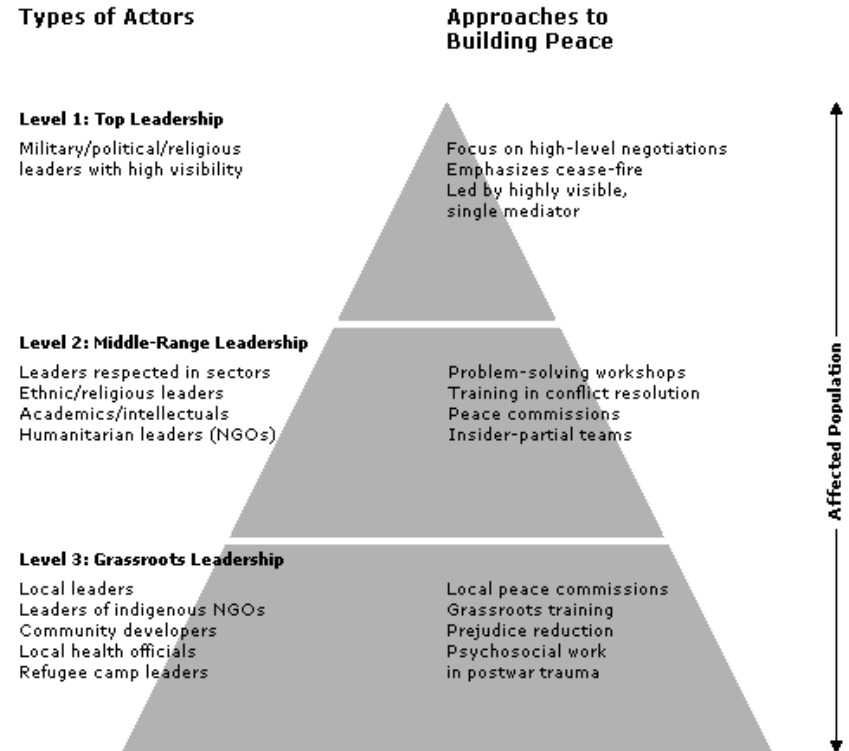
- Aimed at practitioners
- Transformation into a peace system
- Peace & Justice; Truth & Mercy



Conflict Transformation: Core Concepts

Lederach

- Levels (personal, structural, relational, cultural)
- Time-periods (short, mid, long-term)
- Lederach's pyramid



Derived from John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1997), 39.

Miall: Conflict Transformation

Conflict Transformation as a 'comprehensive approach', see p. 17:

... addressing a range of dimensions (micro to macro issues, local to global levels, grassroots to elite actors, short-term to long-term timescales). It aims to develop capacity and to support structural change, rather than to facilitate outcomes or deliver settlements. It seeks to engage with conflict at the pre-violence and post-violence phases, and with the causes and consequences of violent conflict, which usually extend beyond the site of fighting.

Questions?

Are there any reasons why some theorists or practitioners might be opposed to the conflict transformation approach, as opposed to conflict resolution or conflict management?



Social Justice

Cramme & Diamond, *Social Justice in the Global Age*, 2009, p. 3, social justice is:

... the relative distribution of rights, opportunities and resources within a given society, and whether it deserves to be regarded as fair and just.

Social Justice -

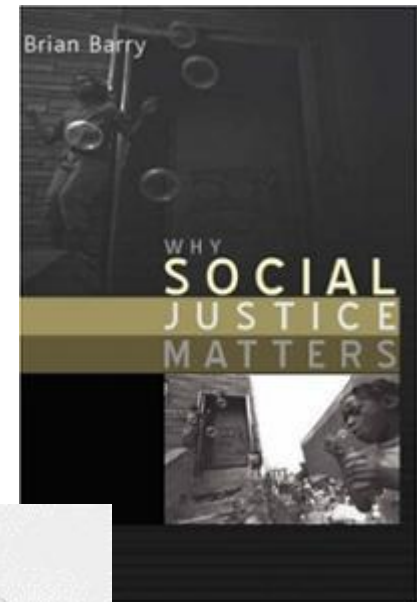
- Origins in a response to industrialization, 1840s
- Capitalism
- Unequal power relationships between workers and owners



Social Justice -

Brian Barry, *Why Social Justice Matters*

- Emergence of social democracies after WW2
- Trade unions
- Taxation and Transfer
- Education & health services



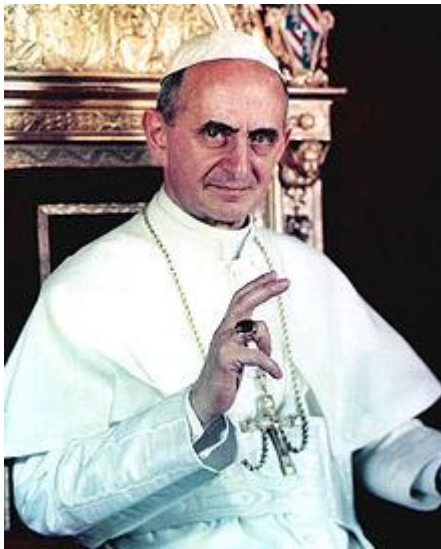
Barry, Social Justice

- Relationship between political liberalism and social justice
- The myth of equality of opportunity
- (The biggest predictor of 'success' in life is social class at birth)
- Global and national patterns of inequality
- David Miller on the relationship between social justice & global justice

David Miller: 4 Principles of Social Justice

- **Equal Citizenship:** an equal set of basic rights including the means to exercise them
- **Social Minimum:** the resources to meet essential needs and live a secure and dignified life
- **Equality of Opportunity:** life chances depend on motivation and aptitude, not class, gender, ethnicity
- **Fair Distribution of resources**

What's the relationship between conflict transformation & social justice?



Pope Paul VI – do you agree with the pope?

